

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 IO-03 ORM-01 SR-02

PM-03 SP-02 L-01 PRS-01 INR-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 SAM-01

RSC-01 SSO-00 INRE-00 EURE-00 /048 W

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O P 141819Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7241

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 00571

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, UK, CY, TU

SUBJECT: BRITISH DECIDE TO RELEASE TURKISH REFUGEES ON  
SBA'S

SUMMARY: CALLAGHAN MESSAGES TO ESENBEL, BITSIOS, AND  
MAKARIOS INFORM THEM OF DECISION TO RELEASE TURKISH  
REFUGEES ON SBA'S AND PROPOSE CENSUS PROCEDURE JANUARY  
16 FOLLOWED BY FIRST EVACUATION BY TURKISH AIRCRAFT ON  
JANUARY 18 TAKING UP TO 300 REFUGEES PER DAY TO TURKEY.  
BRITISH REQUEST ABSOLUTE SECRECY UNTIL CENSUS TAKEN AND  
EVACUATION ARRANGEMENTS AGREED. END SUMMARY.

1. FCO (GOODISON) TELLS US THAT AT 1430 GMT TODAY, JANU-  
ARY 14, CABLES WERE RELEASED CARRYING CALLAGHAN MESSAGES  
FOR DELIVERY IN CAPITALS TO ESENBEL, BITSIOS, AND  
MAKARIOS, AS WELL AS MESSAGE TO INFORM DEPARTMENT, OF  
CALLAGHAN DECISION TO PERMIT EVACUATION OF TURKISH  
REFUGEES FROM WESTERN SBA.

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2. BRITISH PROPOSE TO HOLD CENSUS POLLING REFUGEES ON INDIVIDUAL DESIRES THURSDAY JANUARY 16, TALLY CENSUS FRIDAY, AND BE PREPARED TO RECEIVE TURKISH AIRCRAFT SATURDAY, TO REMOVE REFUGEES TO TURKEY AT RATE OF UP TO 300 PER DAY. AIRLIFT WOULD BEGIN WITH MOST URGENT HARD-SHIP CASES.

3. BRITISH DO NOT RULE OUT TURKISH COUNTERPROPOSAL, ESPECIALLY AS TURKISH AIRCRAFT SUGGESTED. HOWEVER, THEY BELIEVE ANY SEABORNE ARMADA WOULD UPSET GREEKS MORE. (FYI GOODISON CONFIDED THAT SOME SEA EVACUATION WOULD EVENTUALLY BE NECESSARY TO TAKE OUT TRACTORS AND SIMILAR HEAVY ITEMS, BUT BRITISH VISUALIZE THAT AS LAST STAGE AND HAVE NOT MENTIONED IT IN MESSAGE TO TURKS.)

4. MESSAGES (INCLUDING THAT TO ESENBEL) REQUEST ALL ADDRESSEES TO MAKE NO ANNOUNCEMENT OF THIS DECISION UNTIL AFTER CENSUS TAKEN AND ARRANGEMENTS MADE TO MOVE FIRST REFUGEES. (BRITISH FEAR THAT PUBLICITY MIGHT CAUSE A RUN ON SBA'S BY OTHER TURKS, POSSIBLE GREEK COUNTERMEASURES TO KEEP THEM OUT, AND POSSIBLE TURKISH MILITARY RIPOSTE.) LETTER TO ESENBEL SPECIFIES THAT ONLY TURKS PRESENT IN SBA WILL BE ALLOWED TO USE IT, AND SBA CANNOT BECOME TRANSFER POINT FOR TURKS PRESENTLY OFF SBA.

5. ALL LETTERS STRESS DECISION BEING TAKEN ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS (BRITISH HAVING ACCEPTED GREEK POLITICAL ARGUMENTS AGAINST RELEASE). LETTER TO ESENBEL SUGGESTS TURKISH GESTURE TO ASSIST A "RAPID AND CONSTRUCTIVE SOLUTION" TO PROBLEMS THAT AFFECT CLERIDES-DENKTASH TALKS. AMBASSADOR IN ANKARA INSTRUCTED TO SUPPLEMENT THIS WITH ORAL ENCOURAGEMENT OF TURKISH GESTURE SUCH AS

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 00571

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ALLOWING RETURN OF SOME GREEK CYPRIOT REFUGEES TO THEIR HOMES, OR DISCOVERING AND ASSISTING MISSING GREEK PERSONS IN NORTH TO RETURN SOUTH.

6. LETTERS TO BITSIOS AND MAKARIOS (WHICH ARE PRACTICAL-LY IDENTICAL) EXPRESS RECOGNITION OF LARGE GREEK CYPRIOT REFUGEE PROBLEM BUT ARGUE THAT THIS MOVE AT LEAST STANDS CHANCE OF ENCOURAGING SOME TURKISH GESTURE TO FACILITATE PROGRESS IN CLERIDES-DENKTASH TALKS.

7. GREEK AMBASSADOR DELIVERED LETTER FROM BITSIOS TO CALLAGHAN YESTERDAY, JANUARY 13, URGING CALLAGHAN NOT TO RELEASE TURKS, ARGUING THAT GREEK PUBLIC OPINION WILL NOT LIKE IT AND IT WOULD NOT HELP CLERIDES-DENKTASH TALKS. CALLAGHAN WAS FRANK IN REJECTING THIS LINE OF ARGUMENT.

8. TURKISH AMBASSADOR IS SCHEDULED TO SEE CALLAGHAN LATE THIS AFTERNOON. HE WILL BE INFORMED THAT DECISION IS POSITIVE.

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9. IN DISCUSSION WITH US GOODISON ARGUED THAT THIS MOVE AT LEAST RAISES POSSIBILITY OF SOME USEFUL TURKISH GESTURE (AT LATER DATE) WHEREAS NO SUCH POSSIBILITY EXISTED AS LONG AS BRITISH CONTINUED TO REFUSE EVACUATION OF THE TURKISH REFUGEES.

10. COMMENT: THIS MOVE HAS BEEN WELL TELEGRAPHED TO US OVER PAST COUPLE OF WEEKS. BRITISH ARE KEEPING THEIR FINGERS CROSSED THAT THEY CAN AVOID PAINFUL CONSEQUENCES SUCH AS THOSE SUGGESTED IN PARA 4 ABOVE. THEY FEEL THEY HAD NO OTHER CHOICE.

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## Message Attributes

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